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  Process and apparatus for intaglio printing
  Procédé et appareil pour l'héliogravure
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 RCA TECHNICAL NOTES, Nr. TN 828, 10.April 1969, PRINCETON US, XP002028081 P.J.
 DONALD: "A Pre-cavitated rotogravure plate and method of preparing same for printing"

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zel hnet, daß die Tiefdruckrohform (1) als Hülse ausgeführt ist.

- 17. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 15, dadurch gek nnzei hnet, daß zur Einrichtung (11) zum Antrag n einer verflüssigbaren Substanz, in Rotationsrichtung des Druckformzytinders (10) gesehen, je eine Formleiste (11d, 11e) vor und nach dem Spalt zwischen der Tiefdruckrohform (1) und der Einrichtung (11) vorgesehen ist, wobei die Formleiste (11d) nach dem Spalt eine scharfe hintere Kante aufweist und formschlüssig gegen den Zylinder (10) in einem sehr geringen Abstand von wenigen 1/100 mm gehalten ist und die Formleiste (11e) vor dem Spalt gegen den Zylinder (10) in einem größeren Abstand von einigen 1/100 mm bis wenigen 1/10 mm gehalten ist.
- 18. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 15, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Grundraster der Tiefdruckrohrform (1) Stege (9), die sich schraubenförmig mit einem definierten Winkel um deren zylinderförmige Oberfläche winden, aufweist.
- 19. Vorriochtung nach Anspruch 15, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Tiefdruckrohform (1) schichtförmig aufgebaut ist, wobei mindestens zwischen einer Oberflächenschicht, die das Grundraster beinhaltet, und einem Trägerzylinder eine wärmeisolierende Schicht eingelegt ist.
- Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 19, dadurch gekennzelchnet, daß die wärmeisolierende Schicht aus glasfaserverstärktem Kohlenstoff besteht.
- 21. Vorrichtung nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche 18 bis 20, dadurch gekennzelchnet, daß die Stege (9) möglichst senkrecht zur Oberfläche der Tiefdruckform verlaufend ausgeführt sind.
- 22. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 15, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß regelmäßiges näpfchenförmiges Grundraster vorgesehen ist.
- 23. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 15, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß als Grundraster stochastisch verteilte Vertiefungen vorgesehen sind.
- 24. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 15, dadurch gekennzelchnet, daß als Regenerationseinrichtung (15) eine Ultraschallreinigungsanlage vorgesehen ist.
- 25. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 24, dadurch gekennzelchnet, daß die Ultraschallreinigungsanlage auf mindestens zwei verschiedenen Stufen betreibbar ist, wobei eine Stufe mit niedriger Schallenergie und/oder mit einer Flüssigkeit, die nur die Farbe löst, zur Entfernung der verbliebenen Farbe dient

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zelchnet, daß als Bildpunkt-Ubertragungseinnen ein zur thermischen Energieeinwirkung vorgesehener Laser (21), insbesondere ein Hochenergielaser eingesetzt ist.

- 29. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 28, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß eine Halbleiterlaseranordnung aus mehreren Halbleiterlasern vorgesehen ist.
- 30. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 15, dadurch gekennzelchnet, daß als Bildpunkt-Übertragungseinrichtung eine auf das befüllte Grundraster der Tiefdruckrohform (1) aufbügelbare, bildmäßig beschnittene, saugfähige Folie (30) vorgesehen ist.

31. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 15, dadurch gekennzelchnet, daß als Bildpunkt-Übertragungseinrichtung eine Mikrospiegelanordnung (40) vorgesehen ist.

Claims

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Process for intaglio printing by means of an erasable and re-usable intaglio forme, proceeding from a blank intaglio forme having a base screen designed at least for the maximum amount of ink to be transferred, characterised in that within the intaglio machine the depressions of the base screen of the blank intaglio forme (1) are each uniformly filled (2) by means of a liquefiable substance by an application device (11), material is then removed imagewise from the depressions by means of a pixeltransfer device (21), whereby surfaces (pixels) which are smaller than the surface elements of the base screen of the crude intaglio forme (1) are addressed, the intaglio forme (20) screened imagewise is inked (4) by means of an inking system (13)

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in the form of a chambered doctor blad, and is then printed (9) in intaglio, finally the crude intaglio forme (1) is regenerated (7, 8) after the printing procedure and the depressions are again uniformly filled (2).

- Process according to claim 1, characterised in that an excess of the liquefiable substance in the liquid state is applied to the blank intaglio forme (1) and after hardening the excess amount is removed from the blank intaglio forme (1) by means of a doctor blade (12).
- Process according to claim 1, characterised in that the complete filling of the base screen of the blank intaglio forme (1) is effected by successive multiple application and intermediate drying.
- Process according to claim 1, characterised in that the image-wise ablation (3) is effected by thermal energy.
- Process according to claim 1, characterised in that the surface of the blank intaglio forme (1) in the filled state is subsequently polished.
- Process according to claim 1, characterised by printing in indirect intaglio.
- Process according to claim 1, characterised by the use of highly pigmented, in particular water-based inks for inking the intaglio forme (20).
- 8. Process according to claim 1, characterised in that the regeneration (7, 8) of the intaglio forme (1), which begins with the cleaning (7) of ink residue on the intaglio forme (20), includes the complete removal of the liquefiable substance from the depressions of the basic screen per cycle with filling (2), image-wise ablation (3), inking (4), printing (6) and regeneration (7, 8).
- Process according to claim 1, characterised in that the regeneration (7, 8) of the blank intaglio forme (1) provides for the complete removal of the liquefiable substance from the depressions of the basic screen every predetermined number of cycles with filling (2), image-wise ablation (3), inking (4), printing (6) and regeneration (7), and in the intermediate cycles only the material of the liquefiable substance removed by the image-wise ablation (3) is filled up again.
- Process according to claim 1, characterised in that a thermoplast is used for the liquefiable substanc
- 11. Process according to claim 1, hara t ri ed in

that photopolymers are used for the liquefiable substanc

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- Process according to claim 1, hara t ri ed in that lacqu rs are used for the liquefiable substance.
- 13. Process according to claim 1, characterised in that for the image-wise ablation (3) a micro-mirror arrangement (40) is used which is uniformly illuminated and reproduced on the intaglio forme surface (44) with image elements by tiltable micro-mirror elements (41), the addressing of the mirror elements (41) being changed synchronously with the rotation of the intaglio forme surface (44) similarly to a shift register, so that the association of a pixel on the printing forme surface (44) with its corresponding illumination data value is retained over the entire imaging surface of the mirror arrangement (40) onto the forme surface (44).
- 14. Process according to claim 1, characterised in that structuring of the depressions of the basic screen, necessary from the point of view of the technical procedure, are carried out with the image-wise ablation (3).
- 15. Apparatus for intaglio printing for carrying out the process of claim 1, characterised in that onto a blank intaglio forme (1) rotating in the printing machine, having a base screen in the circumferential direction designed at least for the maximum amount of ink to be transferred, there can be set a device (11) for applying a liquefiable substance, a pixel-transfer device (21, 30, 40) for image-wise ablation (3) on the surface of the intaglio forme (20), an inking system (13) in the form of a chambered doctor blade, and a regeneration device (15) for the basic screen of the blank intaglio forme (1).
- 16. Apparatus according to claim 15, characterised in that the blank intaglio forme (1) is designed as a sleeve.
- 17. Apparatus according to claim 15, characterised in that for the device (11) for applying a liquefiable substance, seen in the direction of rotation of the printing forme cylinder (10), there is provided a moulded strip (11d, 11e) before and after the gap between the blank intaglio forme (1) and the device (11), the moulded strip (11d) after the gap having an acute rear angle and is held in a form-fitting manner against the cylinder (10) with a very small spacing of a few 1/100 mm, and the moulded strip (11e) before the gap is held against the cylinder (10) with a greater spacing of som 1/100 mm to a few 1/10 mm.

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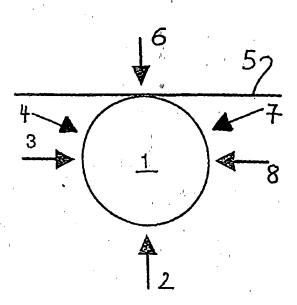
- 18. Apparatus according to claim 15, character1 ed in that the bas screen of the blank intaglio forme (1) has crosspieces (9) which wind in a scr w-like manner at a specific angle about its cylindrical surface.
- 19. Apparatus according to claim 15, characterised in that the blank intaglio forme (1) is of layered construction, wherein a heat-insulating layer is inserted at least between a surface layer, containing the base screen, and a carrier cylinder.
- Apparatus according to claim 19, characterised in that the heat-insulating layer is made of glass-fibrereinforced carbon.
- 21. Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims 18 to 20, characterised in that the crosspieces (9) are designed to extend as perpendicularly as possible to the surface of the intaglio forme.
- 22. Apparatus according to claim 15, characterised in that a uniform cell-like base screen is provided.
- Apparatus according to claim 15, characterised in that randomly distributed depressions are provided as the base screen.
- 24. Apparatus according to claim 15, characterised in that an ultrasonic cleaning device is provided as the regeneration device (15).
- 25. Apparatus according to claim 24, characterised in that the ultrasonic cleaning device can be operated at least two different levels, wherein one level with low sound energy and/or with a liquid which only dissolves the ink, is used to remove the remaining ink, and other levels are used for the partial to complete removal of the filling material in the depressions of the basic screen.
- 26. Apparatus according to claim 15, characterised in that a high-pressure water cleaner is provided as the regeneration device (15).
- 27. Apparatus according to claim 26, characterised in that the high-pressure water cleaner can be operated at least two different levels, wherein one level with low liquid pressure and/or temperature is used to remove the remaining ink, and the other levels with correspondingly higher liquid pressure and/or temperature are used for the partial to complete removal of the filling material in the depressions of the basic screen.
- 28. Apparatus according to claim 15, characterised in that a laser (21), in particular a high-energy laser, provided for thermal energy input, is used as the pixel-transfer unit.

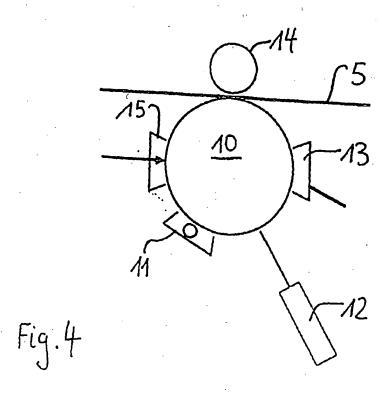
- 29. Apparatus according to claim 28, haracterised in that as mi-conductor las rarrangem nt comprising s veral semi-conductor las rs is provided.
- 30. Apparatus according t claim 15, hara t ri ed in that an absorbent foil (30) which can be ironed onto the filled base screen of the blank intaglio forme (1), cut according to the image, is provided as the pixeltransfer device.
  - Apparatus according to claim 15, characterised in that a micro-mirror arrangement (40) is provided as the pixel-transfer device.

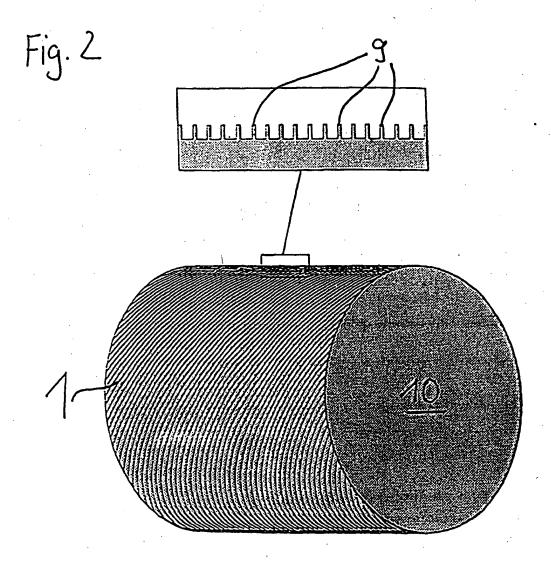
## Revendications

- Procédé pour l'impression en héliogravure au moyen d'une forme d'impression en héliogravure effaçable et réutilisable, à partir d'une forme brute d'impression en héliogravure comportant une trame de base de dimensions adaptées au moins à la quantité maximale d'encre à transférer, caractérisé en ce qu'à chaque fois, à l'intérieur de la machine à imprimer par héliogravure, on remplit uniformément (2) les creux de la trame de base de la forme brute d'impression par héliogravure (1), par une substance liquéfiable, à l'aide d'un dispositif d'application (11), on procède ensuite à l'enlèvement (3) de matériau des creux, conformément à l'image, à l'aide d'un dispositif de transfert d'image par points (21), les surfaces (points d'image) adressées étant plus petites que les éléments de surface de la trame de base de la forme brute d'impression en héliogravure (1), on procède à l'encrage (4) de la forme d'impression en héliogravure (20) tramée conformément à l'image, au moyen d'un système d'encrage (13) sous la forme d'une racle à chambre, et puis l'on réalise l'impression (9) en héliogravure, pour finalement régénérer (7, 8) la forme brute d'impression en héliogravure (1) après l'opération d'impression et remplir (2) à nouveau uniformément les creux.
- Procédé selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce que l'on applique la substance liquéfiable à l'état liquide et en excès sur la forme brute d'impression en héliogravure (1), et après solidification, on retire la part en excès de la forme brute d'impression en héliogravure (1), au moyen d'une racle (12).
  - Procédé selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce que l'on effectue le remplissage de la trame de base de la forme brute d'impression en héliogravure (1) par applications multiples et séchage intermédiaire successifs.
  - 4. Procédé selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce

Fig. 1







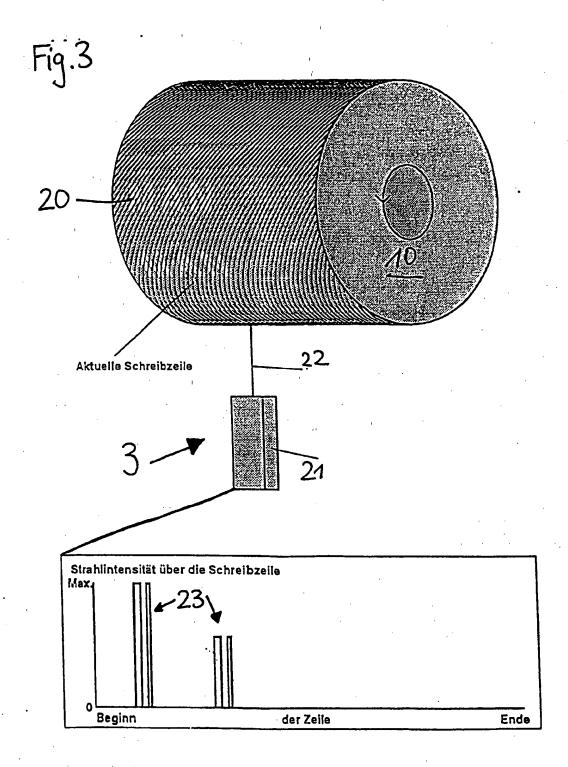
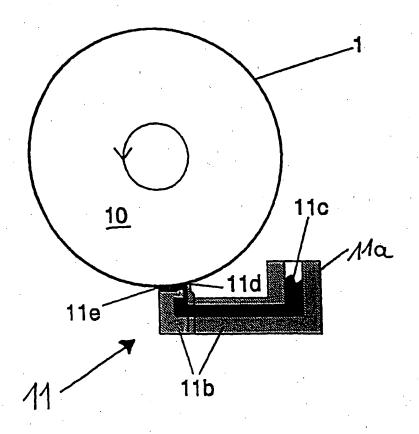
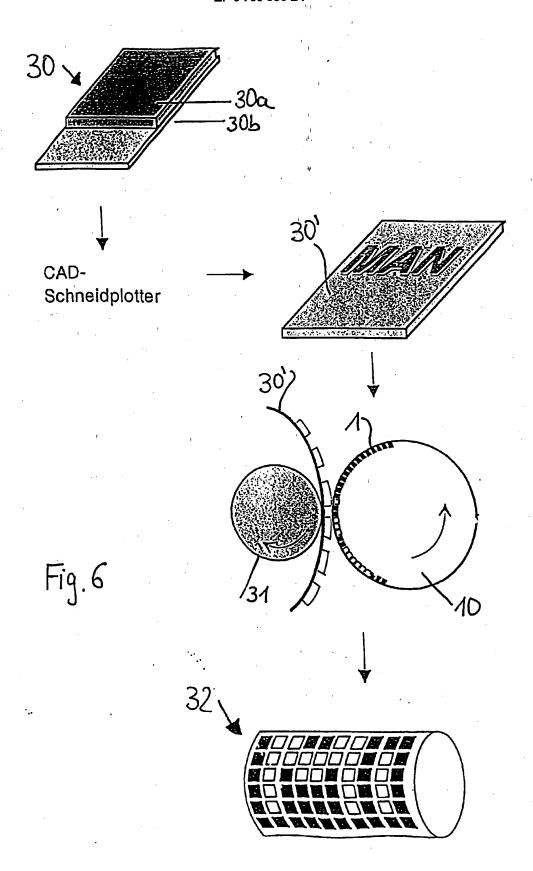
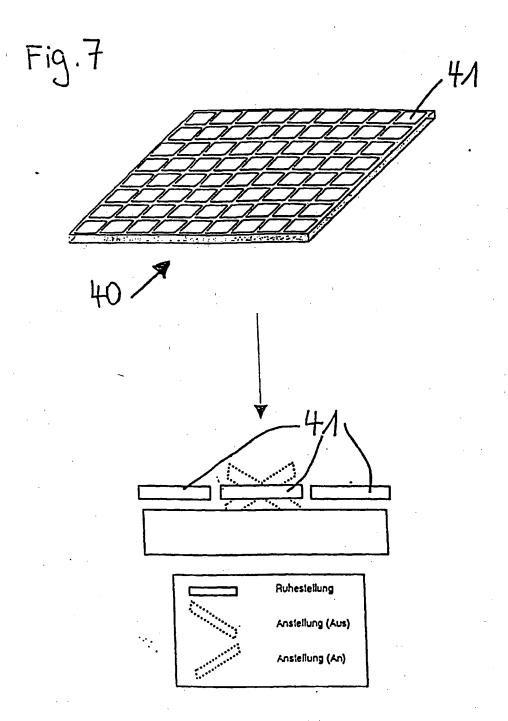


Fig. 5









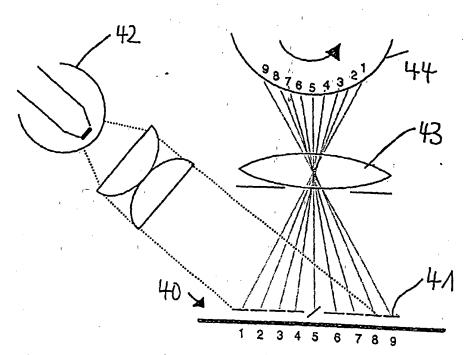


Fig. 9

